



**TESTIMONY**

**ON THE**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING**

**FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET REQUEST**

**BEFORE THE**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT**  
**OPERATIONS**

**THE HONORABLE CAROL SCHWARTZ, CHAIRPERSON**

**PRESENTED BY**

**CLARENCE P. BROWN, PHD**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008**  
**10:00 AM**

**GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON SCHWARTZ AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS. I AM CLARENCE BROWN, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING. I AM JOINED BY THREE MANAGERS FROM THE DC OFFICE ON AGING: MS. DONNA DUNSTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR; MR. SAM GAWAD, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER; AND MS. ROXANNE ANDO, PROGRAM AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR. MS. JACQUELINE ARGUELLES, CHAIRPERSON OF THE DC COMMISSION ON AGING IS ALSO PRESENT.**

**I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED TO PRESENT MAYOR ADRIAN FENTY'S FY 09 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING. THE FY 09 BUDGET SUPPORTS THE MAYOR'S VISION AND GOALS FOR OLDER RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT THROUGH HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICE**

**ON AGING’S MISSION, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. IN FACT, THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL MODESTLY EXPAND AND ENHANCE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR OLDER RESIDENTS THROUGH A 1% BASE BUDGET INCREASE OVER FY 08, BY RE-PROGRAMMING FY 08 FUNDS FOR NEW INITIATIVES, AND THROUGH AN INCREASE IN INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDING. THE LATTER IS UNQUESTIONABLY NOTEWORTHY GIVEN THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES AND SEVERE BUDGET CONSTRAINTS. THE MAYOR’S BUDGET WILL ALLOW US TO GET THE JOB DONE FOR OUR OLDER RESIDENTS AND ALLOWS US TO BE MORE CREATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIONAL.**

**AS YOU KNOW, THE MISSION OF THE DC OFFICE ON AGING, CREATED IN 1975 BY PUBLIC LAW 1-24, IS “TO ADVOCATE, PLAN, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR PROGRAMS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES THAT PROMOTE LONGEVITY, INDEPENDENCE, DIGNITY AND CHOICE FOR RESIDENTS 60 AND OLDER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.” THE MAYOR’S FY 09 BUDGET WILL CONTINUE, AND IN SOME**

**INSTANCES EXPAND, THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR OLDER RESIDENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE AGENCY'S MISSION.**

**THE ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE FY 09 BUDGET INCLUDE: 1) IN-HOME AND CONTINUING CARE PROGRAM; 2) COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT PROGRAM; 3) CONGREGATE AND HOME DELIVERED MEALS; 4) LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES; 5) SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES; 6) CONSUMER INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH; AND 6) AGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

**TOTAL LOCAL OR DISTRICT FUNDS REQUESTED FOR FY 09 ARE \$17,484,000 WHICH REPRESENT A 0.2 PERCENT CHANGE OVER THE FY 08 BUDGET OF \$17,443,000. LOCAL FUNDS IN FY 09 WILL SUPPORT 15.5 FTES AS OPPOSED TO 16.5 FTES IN FY 08.**

**FEDERAL FUNDS SUPPORT MANY OF THE ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE DC OFFICE ON AGING. IN THE FY 09 BUDGET, FEDERAL FUNDS ACCOUNTS FOR 27% OF THE TOTAL AGENCY BUDGET OR \$6,601,000 WHICH IS AN**

**INCREASE OF 3% OVER THE FY 08 BUDGET OF \$6,415,494. FEDERAL FUNDS WILL SUPPORT 10.0 FTES IN FY 09 AS OPPOSED TO 9 FTES IN FY 08. THE THIRD CATEGORY OF FUNDING FOR THE MAYOR'S FY 09 PROPOSED BUDGET IS INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS WHICH TOTALING \$275,000. THESE FUNDS ARE USED TO SUPPORT 3 FTES FOR THE OLDER WORKERS' EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN THE DC DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES). IN FY 08, THE AGENCY'S INTRA-DISTRICTS FUNDS INCREASED BY 10% FROM AN INITIAL \$250,000 AND 3 FTES TO A TOTAL OF \$1,673,000. THE SOURCE OF THE INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS (\$1,000,000 IN LOCAL FUNDS AND \$423,000 IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS) WAS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) FOR FY 08.**

**THE ADRC, WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE, WILL OPEN THIS SUMMER TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES FOR DISTRICT ELDERLY RESIDENTS AND ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES USING A SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY SYSTEM OR A "ONE-STOP-**

**SHOP.” IN FY 09, THE MOU BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING FOR THE ADRC IS EXPECTED TO BE CONTINUED USING PRIMARILY LOCAL FUNDS AND THE BALANCE OF THE REMAINING FEDERAL FUNDS.**

**ADDITIONALLY, IN FY 08, A COMPETITIVE MINI IT GRANT WAS AWARDED TO THE AGENCY BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNITS OF AGING (NASUA) FOR \$20,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE INFORMATION SYSTEM OR HARMONY. THE LATTER REPRESENTS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL GRANT APPLICATIONS THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED BY THE DC OFFICE ON AGING IN FY 08 AND OTHERS WILL BE SUBMITTED IN FY 09. FOR EXAMPLE, IN FY 08 THE DC OFFICE ON AGING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SUBMITTED A \$1.2 MILLION, THREE YEAR TARGETED CAPACITY EXPANSION GRANT TO THE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CMHS) FOR OLDER ADULTS USING THE DISTRICT’S NEW SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY SYSTEM OR THE ADRC.**

**IN FY 09 AS IN FY 08, THE DC OFFICE OF AGING BUDGET WILL FUND 22 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND 37 DIFFERENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THROUGH COMPETITIVE GRANTS WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY BE A COST-SAVING THROUGH MORE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT. THE GRANTEES ARE SERVICE PROVIDERS WHO COMPRISE THE DC OFFICE ON AGING SENIOR SERVICE NETWORK. MORE THAN \$14 MILLION IN GRANTS WERE AWARDED TO SERVICE PROVIDERS IN FY 08 AND \$15 MILLION WILL BE AWARDED IN FY 08 FROM FEDERAL AND LOCAL FUNDS. THE COMPETITIVE FY 09 RFA OR REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR LEAD AGENCIES AND THE SENIOR WELLNESS CENTERS GRANTS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AND APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE CITY FOR NON-PROFIT, PRIVATE AND FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED AGAIN, THAT NINETY (90%) OF THE DC OFFICE ON AGING BUDGET IS ALLOCATED TO FUND DIRECT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR OLDER RESIDENTS PROVIDED BY THE GRANTEES.**

**MAYOR FENTY'S PROPOSED FY 09 BUDGET FOR THE DC OFFICE ON AGING INCLUDES COST SAVINGS OF \$581, 000 BASED ON STREAMLINING OF SERVICES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND THE SENIOR WELLNESS CENTERS, ALIGNMENT OF FIXED COST ESTIMATES WITH PROJECTED NEEDS, AND CANCELLING PROPOSED TELECOM EXPANSION. THESE CHANGES WILL NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THE AGENCY AND SERVICES TO OUR SENIORS IN FY 09.**

**THE PROPOSED BUDGET HAS ALSO INCLUDED FUNDING FOR SEVERAL POLICY INITIATIVES FOR ALMOST \$1 MILLION IN FUNDING. ONE OF THE INITIATIVES WILL STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND SERVICES FOR OUR OLDER RESIDENTS BY INCREASING OR ADJUSTING FUNDING BY 2.0 TO 3% FOR COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTEES OR SERVICE PROVIDERS WHERE THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES EXCEED CURRENT RESOURCES SUCH AS IN-HOME CARE SERVICES. THE MAYOR HAS INCLUDED \$385, 000 FOR GRANTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND LEAD AGENCIES AND AN ADDITIONAL \$300,000 WILL BE COMMITTED**

**FROM DCOA'S FY 08 BASE BUDGET. THUS, MORE SENIORS WILL BE SERVED MORE EFFECTIVELY IN FY 09.**

**THE SECOND SIGNIFICANT POLICY INITIATIVE SUPPORTED IN THE MAYOR'S BUDGET IS "AGING IN PLACE." THE MAYOR HAS PROVIDED \$210,000 THAT WILL BE USED TO PLAN, GROW AND HELP SUSTAIN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SUCH AS SENIOR VILLAGES, OTHER MODELS AND BEST PRACTICES THAT ALLOW OLDER RESIDENTS TO AGE IN PLACE BY PROVIDING NEEDED SERVICES THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD GRASS ROOTS, NON-PROFITS ORGANIZATIONS. THE SENIOR VILLAGE MODEL HAS SHOWN GREAT PROMISE AND A HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE DISTRICT FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF SUCH PROGRAMS AS BEACON HILL IN BOSTON, AND CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE IN THE DISTRICT. DCOA WILL COMMIT AN ADDITIONAL \$90,000 IN THE FY 09 BASE BUDGET IN SUPPORT OF THE MAYOR'S AGING IN PLACE INITIATIVE. THESE FUNDS ARE PLANNED AS COMPETITIVE CHALLENGE GRANTS WITH A DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR MATCH FROM THE APPLICANT USING THE RFA OR REQUEST FOR**

**APPLICATION PROCESS. SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT MAY RECEIVE UP TO \$15,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT.**

**ANOTHER POLICY INITIATIVE INCLUDED IN THE MAYOR'S BUDGET IS A PILOT PROGRAM FOR A MEALS PROGRAM AT RECREATION CENTERS. MOST MEAL PROGRAMS OR NUTRITION SITES, AMONG THE CURRENT 48 APPROVED SITES, ARE LOCATED AT WELLNESS CENTERS, FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS, SENIOR HOUSING CENTERS AND STAND ALONE SENIOR CENTERS. THERE ARE ONLY FOUR NUTRITION SITES LOCATED AT RECREATION CENTERS. THE PROPOSED PILOT PROGRAM IN THE MAYOR'S FY 09 BUDGED REQUEST FOR \$60,000 WILL DEMONSTRATE THE FEASIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF USING MORE RECREATION CENTERS AS NUTRITION SITES TO ATTRACT MORE BABY BOOMERS SEEKING ALTERNATIVES AND CHOICES DURING RETIREMENT IN STRATEGIC AREAS.**

**THE LAST POLICY INITIATIVE OF THE MAYOR PROVIDES CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR A MAJOR INVESTMENT BY THE CITY TO MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY SERVE OUR OLDER**

**RESIDENTS AND CUSTOMERS BY PROVIDING NEEDED FUNDS (\$300,000) FOR SOFTWARE DESIGN, ENHANCEMENTS TO AND OPERATING SUPPORT FOR THE NEW CUSTOMER INFORMATION SERVICE SYSTEM KNOWN AS HARMONY. THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED AND IS CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT THE SENIOR SERVICE NETWORK TO TRACK CUSTOMERS AND SERVICES TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY OF PAYMENT FOR SERVICES TO AGENCIES WHO ARE SERVICE PROVIDERS. THE SYSTEM IS A WEB-BASED, SYSTEM FOR RECORDING SERVICES PROVIDED, PARTICIPANTS SERVED BY SITES, AND WILL BE USED TO GENERATE MONTHLY INVOICES FOR PAYMENT AND PRODUCE REQUIRED REPORTS. THE SYSTEM WILL IMPROVE PROGRAM EFFICIENCY, IMPROVE ACCURACY OF SERVICES PROVIDED, AND ACCURACY FOR COST REIMBURSEMENT TO SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

**IN CLOSING MADAME CHAIR, IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO NOTE SEVERAL OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS REGARDING THE MAYOR'S FY 09 BUDGET REQUEST RELATIVE TO THE DC OFFICE ON AGING.**

- **THE BUDGET WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE CITY'S FOUR SENIOR WELLNESS CENTERS AND THE PLANNED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS OF WARD 1 AND 6 SENIOR WELLNESS CENTERS. BASED ON CURRENT SCHEDULES, THE WARD ONE SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL FY 10 ALTHOUGH CONSTRUCTION HAS STARTED. THE WARD 6 SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SHOULD BE AWARDED BY THE OFFICE OF CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT (OCP) IN JUNE WITH A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY PLANNED THIS SUMMER, WHICH WE WILL BE SURE TO INVITE YOU MADAME CHAIR, COUNCILMEMBER WELLS AND OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMITTEE. THE WARD 6 SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER WILL ALSO SERVE AS THE OFFICE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE DC OFFICE ON AGING AND IT SHOULD ALSO BE COMPLETE IN FY 10.**

- **THE MAYOR’S OVERALL CITY BUDGET SUPPORTS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER RESIDENTS OPERATED BY NUMEROUS OTHER CITY AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CLUSTER AGENCIES, PUBLIC SAFETY, HOUSING AND OTHERS.**
- **THE BUDGET ALSO ACHIEVES UNPRECEDENTED INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION THROUGH PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND IT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.**
- **IT FOCUSES ON LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES AND LONG-TERM POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING QUALITY OF CARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TWO NURSING HOMES OWNED BY THE CITY AND ALL LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES IN THE CITY.**

- **AND THE MAYOR’S BUDGET ENSURES THE CONTINUED MONITORING AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY NEEDED AMONG THE SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

**MADAME CHAIR, THANK YOU FOR MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE MAYOR’S FY 09 BUDGET FOR THE DC OFFICE ON AGING TO YOU AND THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK YOU AND THIS COMMITTEE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICTS’ OLDER RESIDENTS.**

**THIS CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY. I WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY HAVE.**